

Date Mailed
April 28, 2000

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Charter Fiberlink for Authority to Further Extend
Service Territory for Local Exchange Services

3355-NC-103

Application for Interconnection Between Wood County Telephone
Company and Charter Fiberlink LLC

05-TI-322

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING,
PREHEARING CONFERENCE,
AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

Prehearing Conference Date: May 8, 2000 – 10:00 a.m.

Conference Location: Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way,
Madison, WI

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO investigate on a consolidated basis the issues raised by an application filed by Charter Fiberlink LLC (previously Marcus Fiberlink LLC) to extend its service territory into the service territory of Wood County Telephone Company (WCTC) and of Charter Fiberlink's (Charter's) request for interconnection with Wood County Telephone Company. Specifically, Charter seeks termination of WCTC's rural telephone company exemption as defined in 47 U.S.C. §§ 153(37) and 251(f)(1). Wood County is a small telecommunications utility for purposes of Wis. Stat. § 196.50 and a rural telecommunications provider for purposes of 47 U.S.C. § 251(f).

WCTC has informed the Commission of the following:

1. It does not believe Charter's request for interconnection is *bona fide* insofar as Charter may rely upon 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1)(C);
2. It does not consent to Charter's certification under Wis. Stat. § 196.50(1)(b)2.b.;
3. It seeks to maintain a rural telephone company exemption under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1); and
4. It reserves its right to seek suspension or modification of specified federal interconnection duties as allowed under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2).

The Commission has decided, therefore, to hold a hearing with respect to Charter's requests for certification in WCTC service territory and for termination of WCTC's claim to a continued rural telephone company exemption under 47 U.S.C. §§ 153(37) and 251(f)(1).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference on May 8, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin, and continuing at times to be set by the presiding Administrative Law Judge. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact the case coordinator listed below.

The prehearing conference is being held to (1) identify parties; (2) identify issues; (3) determine the date and time for hearing; (4) specify dates for filing testimony and exhibits; and (5) any other matters that will facilitate the hearing.

Parties will be bound by the designation of issues and the schedule adopted at the prehearing conference. Persons who consider themselves to be potential parties should participate in the prehearing conference. Persons who desire to participate as parties must request party status in writing pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 227.44(2m). Party status requests should be addressed to Jeffry J. Patzke, Administrative Law Judge, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This is a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of applicant Charter and WCTC. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from Charter and/or Wood County Telephone Company in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5. Charter shall bear the assessed costs for docket 3355-NC-103, while Charter and WCTC shall split equally the assessed costs for docket 05-TI-322.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912.

Dockets 3355-NC-103, 05-TI-322

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Ken Barth at (608) 267-2406.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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